

STATE OF ARIZONA  
MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
747 WEST VAN BUREN STREET  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

TEF/cw

2 March 1953

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Honorable Barry M. Goldwater  
U. S. Senator  
U. S. Senate Building,  
Washington, D. C.

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Dear Senator Goldwater:

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Reference telephone call last week regarding conference concerning Fort Huachuca.

I have discussed the matter further with His Excellency, the Governor, and he believes that for all intents and purposes, the State of Arizona by enabling legislation did take steps whereby Fort Huachuca could be turned back to the Department of Defense for use of the Armed Forces. However, no attempt has been made by the Department of Defense, through its respective agencies, to accept Fort Huachuca.

The non-acceptance, perhaps, is one of the reasons why Fort Huachuca, Arizona, is not set up as a continuing active military installation. In addition to not accepting Fort Huachuca, Arizona--that is the old portion of the installation--it is well known and established that the Artillery Range title is badly clouded because of numerous parcels of land lying within the boundaries of the Artillery Range remaining in the control of the State of Arizona, the Department of the Interior, and some of it under control of the Department of the Army. Between the two parcels--the old post comprising Fort Huachuca and the Artillery Range--it might be that the conference could clarify the confusion and the position of the State of Arizona insofar as turning, or returning, its interests over to the Department of Defense.

The records, perhaps, in Washington will show that following the release made last year by the then Secretary of the Army, Fort Huachuca was to be a continuing active military installation; that the strength of the military personnel to be stationed there would consist of only a caretaker detachment, numbering at the most approximately three hundred officers and men. With a caretaker detachment in charge, Fort Huachuca would be an active military installation, but not in the sense that people in Arizona would understand.

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MR: TAG to Senator Goldwater re Fort Huachuca Conference & Florence  
POW Camp, dated 2 March 1953

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The reason why Mr. Ed Atkinson, in my estimation, should be designated by the Chief of Engineers to sit in on the conference, is because as legal officer of the Corps of Engineers and former Chief of the Phoenix Real Estate Office, he is very familiar with the background of Fort Huachuca. In addition he has had title search experience, and I am sure has the confidence of the people of the southern part of Arizona as well as this area because of his long residence in Tucson. He--like all other members of the Corps of Engineers--will not give us anything that cannot be justified; in other words, the cooperation and giving comes from persons other than Corps of Engineers. He is, however, unquestionably fair and just, as is his Chief, the District Engineer, Colonel W. R. Shuler. I have every reason to believe that Colonel Shuler would approve the assignment of Mr. Atkinson because of the report prepared by Mr. Atkinson that covered quite a span of years on Fort Huachuca, and that was made up within the last few months. I happen to know Mr. Atkinson was preparing this report because on several occasions he requested access to some of our records.

While on the subject of Colonel Shuler, the District Engineer, whom I know you have met in connection with the Sky Harbor Airport Project, I believe it would be fitting and proper if you would drop him a note thanking him for his exceptionally helpful assistance and cooperation relative to the construction of the facilities at Sky Harbor, and especially the Runway Extension. I have disagreed with Colonel Shuler on several occasions, but I will admit that I hold him in high esteem and he certainly has helped us out on several occasions in our negotiations with the city and county, and in addition he is responsible, I am sure, for the high degree of cooperation extended by the local office of the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Perry Ling, former Special Assistant Attorney General, and now assigned to the Industrial Commission and the Office of the Governor as well as the Legislature, also comes in the thought that this conference should be held and he believes also that Mr. Atkinson would be a valuable adjunct because of his knowledge of Fort Huachuca, and having represented the Department of the Army as well as the Corps of Engineers in solving some of the problems.

It might be to the advantage of the State, and I know it would be helpful to His Excellency, the Governor, if we could at the same time bring up the Florence POW deal. As you know the Government has billed the State for an amount of some \$16,000.00. Neither the Governor, nor myself, nor Mr. Ling believe that it is a proper claim. You might discuss with the Honorable Carl Hayden the status of the Florence POW project, because he was going to contact Mr. Jess Larsen, the Director of General Services Administration, as to why the Government initiated this claim of \$16,000.00.

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LTR: TAG to Senator Goldwater re Fort Huachuca Conference & Florence  
PCW Camp, dated 2 March 1953

As stated to you over the phone, this matter of the future of Fort Huachuca has aroused the interest of practically everyone in the State, and apparently from information furnished both His Excellency, the Governor, and myself, General Swing, Commanding Sixth Army, does not have any information concerning the future of Fort Huachuca, even though the civilian personnel has been cut 75% and the military personnel has been reduced to practically a caretaker detachment. As of 24 February 1953, there has been no information coming into Fort Huachuca Headquarters that would indicate the Department of Defense desires utilizing Fort Huachuca as a training area for the Armed Forces.

If there is any additional information this office can furnish you upon either Fort Huachuca or Florence PCW Camp, please call upon us.

With every good wish, I am

Respectfully yours,

cc: Gov Pyle

FRANK E. FRASER  
Brigadier General, USA  
The Adjutant General